SUMMARY OF THE WEATHER REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 1885 AND JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1886.

The fine weather which had prevailed in the last week of November continued during the first week of December throughout the whole country and for the first ten days in Northern India. In Madras light showers set in on the 7th, and the rain-fall extended and became heavier on the two following days. From the 10th to the 15th there was but little rain in the Peninsula though some fell in Central India, but for about ten days subsequently to the 25th, there was fairly general, and in places heavy, rain in Madras.

In Upper India the weather became unsettled about the middle of the month, and the winter rains began unusually early. Moderate showers fell in the Eastern Punjab and the Gangetic Valley, and falls of snow at the hill stations of the North-Western Himalaya, on the 12th and the 13th, and heavy showers both in North-Western India and the Nerbudda Valley on the 18th and 19th. After the passage of the depression which caused the last mentioned rain-fall, pressure rose quickly and the weather became fine throughout the whole country. In Guzerat, Sind and the Konkan the rain-fall of the month was either nil or unimportant, but in all other parts of the country the amount exceeded the average, especially so in North-Western and Central India. This unsettled weather brought about very low temperatures at times, and the mean temperature of the month was generally 2° or 3° below the average.

In January the weather of Upper India was even more unsettled than in December, and several disturbances appeared over the Punjab. That of the 19th was exceptionally intense, and on that day pressure in the Punjab was from 0·25 inches to 0·37 inches below the average of the month. More than double the average amount of rain fell in the Punjab, and a considerable excess in the Trans-Gangetic districts of the North-Western Provinces, but it did not apparently extend beyond those regions, deficiencies being reported from almost all other parts of India. Western India from Guzerat to the Deccan was rainless throughout. Like December, January was a cool month, the only exceptions being Madras and the more southern districts of the Bombay Presidency, where there was a slight excess of temperature. In the Punjab it was from 2° to 4° below the average.

February was, on the whole, a more settled month than either December or January, and the barometric mean of the month was almost everywhere above the average. A barometric disturbance affected North-Western India on the 16th, but though the pressure differences were considerable and the winds very high at some stations, there was but little rain, and the total fall of the month in this, as well as in nearly all other parts of India, was below the average. Over the greater part of India there was rain, but in the Carnatic and British Burma there was a slight excess, and in Assam and Cachar half the average fall. In the absence of rain, temperature rose above the normal at most of the Peninsula stations and in Guzerat, but elsewhere the cool weather, which had characterized the two preceding months, continued, and in places, relatively to the average, the depression of temperature was even more marked. At Dera Ismail Khan it was as much as 5°. Dry north-westerly winds prevailed throughout a great part of the month, and except in the extreme north-west, humidity was considerably below the average throughout India.

The final column of the following table shows that, except in Bengal and Assam and in Western India, the rain-fall of the three months hasbeen above the average. Except in the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces and the Carnatic, the whole of this excess is attributable to the exceptional rain-fall of December.

The following table shows the amount of rain and the difference from the average during the months of December 1885 and January and February 1886, according to districts as far as is indicated by the telegraphic reports:—